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HOMEMAKERS' CHAT

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U. S. DEPARTMENT
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SUBJECT: "Hands Across the Seas"...Information from the Extension clothing specialist, U. S. Department of Agriculture.

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A thick wool sweater...that once kept an Arkansas farm boy warm while he waited for the school bus...will serve - this winter - to protect a lad in the Balkans from freezing to death.

The school boy's sweater is a symbol of the contributions of American farm families to the United Nations Clothing Drive. Like their city cousins...farm people of the United States responded generously to the call for clothing for European relief...according to Miss Alice Sundquist, Extension clothing specialist of the U. S. Department of Agriculture.

In Arkansas...for example...2500 home demonstration leaders visited more than 40,000 families to ask for donations. One leader...inspired by a letter from her son in the European theatre of action...put in extra long days...going on foot from one farm to another to ask for clothing donations.

In another section of the state...rural leaders donned hip boots to make visits to flooded areas in behalf of the clothing drive.

And the Arkansas families responded. They donated some 125,000 articles of clothing and household goods...articles in good condition that "we would be proud to wear"...their leaders said.

Similar stories come from other parts of the country. In Vermont...a 4-H club boy collected 400 pounds of clothing. He made a house to house canvas with his small wagon.

The farm families have followed news of the clothing's progress to Europe with special interest...Miss Sundquist says. Like their city cousins who contributed to the clothing drive...these farm people are glad to hear that UNNRA has already shipped a hundred million pounds of clothing to Europe's needy. Some of the clothing is being delivered now. And distribution of the clothing overseas will be completed before Christmas.

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